

Carbon Monoxide EFFECTS

THE "INVISIBLE" KILLER

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by fuel-burning appliances and machines. Proper installation and use of CO sources is the best prevention for risks of CO exposure. Even with proper installation, toxic exposures can occur.

Every year, more than 100 people in the U.S. die from unintentional carbon monoxide exposure. We expect our senses to alert us to danger. Unfortunately, our senses aren't able to detect the attributes of CO in the air. Contact with this invisible killer leads to symptoms that can mimic cold, flu, or even food poisoning.

In the event of unintentional toxic exposure, know the symptoms of CO poisoning (see below). If you feel that you have signs of CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately and go to the emergency room.

Know the signs of CO Poisoning:

Headache
Dizziness
Nausea
Breathlessness
Confusion
Chest Pain
Collapse
Loss of Consciousness



ARE YOUR SYMPTOMS A RESULT OF CO POISONING?

- Do your symptoms occur only in the house?
- Do they disappear or decrease when you leave home and reappear when you return?
- Are you using any fuel-burning appliances in the home?
- Has anyone inspected your appliances lately to ensure they are working properly?
- Is anyone else in your household complaining of similar symptoms?

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



CAN'T BE SEEN



CAN'T BE SMELLED



CAN'T BE HEARD



CAN BE STOPPED

Prevention: Avoid CO poisoning

NEVER:

- Leave a generator or car running in the garage.
- Run a generator in the home/garage/crawlspace.
- Use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Burn charcoal in an enclosed space.
- Use a gas range, oven, or dryer for heating.
- Use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- Burn charcoal indoors as it gives off CO.
- Patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, etc.

Also, have your chimney inspected/cleaned every year.



Monitor your CO risk by installing one alarm per level in the hallway near each bedroom or sleeping area and at least five feet from CO source.

CO Poisoning is preventable.
Install a CO monitor.